

Pause. EVELYN goes blank for a moment.

EVELYN: I remember lots of books. Rows and rows. I imagine a whole house built of books and some of them were mine. A storybook filled with terrifying pictures: children's fingers being cut off; children being burnt in attic rooms and no one hearing them scream; children whose teeth fall out and choke them while they're asleep; children being taken away by a great ghoul-like shadow with hooded eyebrows and a long hooked nose... I can remember nothing else apart from a boy with a squint on the train I came away on. I kept trying not to look at him. Please believe me, Faith, there is nothing else in my memory from that time. It honestly is blank.

Pause.

FAITH: Did your parents die in a concentration camp?

EVELYN: Yes.

FAITH: Do you know which one?

EVELYN: Auschwitz.

LIL: When did you find that out?

FAITH: When did they die?

EVELYN: My father died in 1943. He was gassed soon after arrival.

FAITH: What about your mother?

EVELYN: My mother...she was...she was not gassed.

FAITH: What happened to her?

HELGA enters. She is utterly transformed-thin, wizened, old looking. Her hair is thin and short. EVELYN, LIL and FAITH all see her. EVA enters.

START →

HELGA: Ist das Eva? [Translation: Is it Eva?]

EVA is Speechless.

HELGA: Eva, bist du's wirklich? [Translation: Is that you, Eva?]

EVA: Mother?

HELGA approaches EVA and hugs her. EVA tries to hug back but is clearly very uncomfortable.

HELGA: Wie du dich verndert hast! [Translation: How much you have changed!]

EVA: I'm sorry. I don't quite understand.

HELGA: English, How much you have changed.

EVA: So have you.

HELGA: You are sixteen now.

EVA: Seventeen.

HELGA: Blue is suiting to you.

EVA: Thank you.

HELGA: You are very pretty.

EVA: This is a nice hotel.

Pause.

EVA: I can't believe you're here.

HELGA: I promised I would come, Eva.

EVA: I'm called Evelyn now.

HELGA: What is Evelyn?

EVA: I changed my name.

HELGA: Why?

EVA: I wanted an English name.

HELGA: Eva was the name of your great grandmother.

EVA: I didn't mean any disrespect.

HELGA: No. Of course not.

EVA: I'm sorry.

HELGA: Nothing is the same anymore.

EVA: It's just that I've settled down now.

HELGA: These are the pieces of my life.

EVA: There were no letters for all those years and then I saw the newsreels and newspapers.

HELGA: I am putting them all back together again.

EVA: I thought the worst.

HELGA: I always promised that I would come and get you.

EVA: I was a little girl then.

HELGA: I am sorry that there has been such a delay. It was not of my making. *Pause.* I am your Mutti, Eva.

EVA: Evelyn.

HELGA: Eva. Now I am here, you have back your proper name.

EVA: Evelyn is on my naturalization papers.

HELGA: Naturalized as English?

EVA: And adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Miller.

HELGA: How can you be adopted when your own mother is alive for you?

EVA: I thought that you were not alive.

HELGA: Never mind it. We have all done bad things in the last years that we regret. That is how we survive.

EVA: What did you do?

HELGA: I was right to send you here, yes? It is good to survive. Is it not, Eva?

EVA: Please call me Evelyn.

HELGA: Now we must put our lives right again. We will go to New York where your Onkel Klaus will help us to make a beginning.

EVA: All the way to New York?

HELGA: Who is her for us? No one. The remains of our family is in America.

EVA: I have a family here.


HELGA: These people were just a help to you in bad times. You can to leave them now behind. The bad times are finished. I know it.

EVA: I like it here.

HELGA: You will like it better in America.

EVA: Do I have to go away with you?

HELGA: That is what I came for.

 **END**

RATCATCHER music.

END SCENE.